

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Thorsten Laux
Assignee: Sun Microsystems, Inc.
Title: A SYSTEM AND METHOD INCLUDING A MERGING DRIVER FOR
ACCESSING MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES
Serial No.: 09/738,464 Filed: December 13, 2000
Examiner: Group Art Unit:
Docket No.: P-4589 2171

Monterey, CA
March 21, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PETITION TO COMMISSIONER TO ACCORD APPLICATION THE FILING
DATE AS THE DATE OF DEPOSIT SHOWN ON THE EXPRESS MAIL FILING
RECEIPT

Dear Sir:

Applicant petitions the Commissioner to grant the above application a filing date of December 13, 2000 under 37 C.F.R. §1.10(c).

On December 13, 2000, Applicant filed by the Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service of the United States Postal Service the above patent application. The new patent application transmittal letter and the first page of the application itself included an Express Mail Label Number. Applicant received the enclosed copy to the filing receipt, which incorrectly accords a filing date of December 15, 2000.

COPY

Enclosed as Exhibit A is a true copy of "New Patent Application Transmittal Letter" as filed by Express Mail on December 13, 2000. In the top right hand corner of the first page is an Express Mail Label No. of "EL579666905US." The transmittal letter identifies each paper included with the letter and breaks down the parts of the enclosed application. Thus, the application was effectively included under the Express Mail Label.

Nevertheless, enclosed as Exhibit B is a true copy of the first page of the above application as filed by Express Mail on December 13, 2000. In the top right hand corner on the first page is an Express Mail Label No. of "EL579666905US."

Thus, Exhibits A and B demonstrate "The number of the 'Express Mail' mailing label was places on the paper(s) . . . that constitute the correspondence prior to the original mailing by 'Express Mail'." 37 C.F.R. §1.10 (c)(2).

Enclosed as Exhibit C is a true copy of the Post Office To Addressee Express Mail Label. The label clearly shows the "Date In" as "12 13 00." In addition, the postal clerk date stamped the Label with "Dec 13 2000." Thus, Applicant has complied with 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 (c)(3).

This paper is being filed promptly after Applicant's attorney became aware of the incorrect filing date. Thus, Applicant has also complied with 37 C.F.R. §1.10 (c)(1).

The enclosed true copies demonstrate that Applicant complied with all the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.10 and so should the above application should be according a filing date of December 13, 2000.

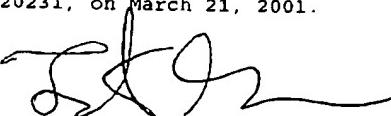
Applicant's attorney hereby certifies that each of Exhibits A to C are true copies of the papers in the file of Applicant's attorney. Applicant again respectfully petitions that the filing date of December 13, 2000 be granted for the above application and that a corrected filing receipt be issued.

Enclosed is a check payable to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks for \$130.00, which is the fee for a petition

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h). However, the incorrect filing date was a PTO error, and so Applicant respectfully submits that no fee should be owing for either this petition or the corrected filing receipt.

- Conditional Petition for Extension of Time: If an extension of time is required for timely filing of the enclosed documents after all papers filed with this transmittal have been considered, Applicants hereby petition for such an extension of time.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required for consideration of the enclosed documents, and to credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0553.

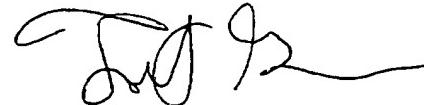
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 21, 2001.



Attorney for Applicant(s)

March 21, 2001
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Forrest Gunnison
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32,899
(831) 655-0880



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET.NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
09/738,464	12/15/2000	2171	790	P-4589	8	17	4

Forrest Gunnison
 Gunnison, McKay & Hodgson, L.L.P.
 Suite 220
 1900 Garden Road
 Monterey, CA 93940

SHOULD BE

12/13/2000

CONFIRMATION NO. 9684
 FILING RECEIPT



'OC0000000580071'

Date Mailed: 02/26/2001

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the PTO processes the reply to the Notice, the PTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Thorslen Laux, Hamburg, GERMANY;

Assignment For Published Patent Application

Sun Microsystems, Inc.,

Continuing Data as Claimed by Applicant

Foreign Applications

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) 99124939.2 12/14/1999

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted 02/22/2001

Projected Publication Date: 06/14/2001

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

COPY

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:
EL579666905US

GUNNISON, MCKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
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COPY

December 13, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: P-4589

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

NEW PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(37 C.F.R. §1.53(b))

Transmitted herewith for filing is an original (nonprovisional) patent application of:

Inventor(s): Thorsten Laux

Entitled: A System and Method Including a Merging Driver for Accessing Multiple Data Sources

Enclosed are the following papers as required for a filing date under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b):

 Sheets Microfiche Appendix;
16 Pages Description;
4 Pages Claims;
1 Page Abstract; and
8 Drawing Sheets (Informal).

Other papers enclosed include:

X Return Receipt Postcard;
X Check for \$830.00 ;
2 Pages of Combined Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney;

COPY

Exhibit A 1/2

GUNNISON MCKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.

New Patent Application Transmittal Letter
 Attorney Docket No. P-4589
 December 13, 2000
 Page 2

COPY

 Pages of Statement Claiming Small Entity
 Status (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b) --Small
 Business Concern);

X Recordation Form Cover Sheet; and

 1 Page of Assignment of the invention to Sun
 Microsystems, Inc.

Fee Calculation					
Claims	Number Filed	Basic Fee Allowance	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee
Total No. of Claims	17	- 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$ 0.00
No. Independent Claims	4	- 3 =	1	X \$80.00	\$ 80.00
Multiple Dependent Claims				\$270.00	0.00
Total of above Calculation					\$ 790.00
Reduction by 50% for filing by Small Entity (Enter 0.5 for small entity)					1.0
Filing Fee					\$ 790.00

FEE PAYMENT

Enclosed are:

Filing Fee	\$ 790.00
Assignment Recording Fee	40.00
Total Fees Enclosed	\$ 830.00

A check in the amount of \$830.00 is enclosed

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0553.

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Gunnison
 Attorney for Applicant(s)
 Reg. No. 32,899

Exhibit A

2/2

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:

EL579666905US

A SYSTEM AND METHOD INCLUDING A MERGING DRIVER FOR
ACCESSING MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES

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Thorsten Laux

COPY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the access of a database having multiple data sources, and more particularly, to the access of multiple data sources by a single query.

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Description of Related Art

There are known databases where the data to be accessed is distributed over multiple data sources, such as different directories, different servers, etc., and where the different data sources have different formats. In this case, in known systems, only one data source can be accessed by a single search or a query. To access multiple sources, the user has to dispatch multiple queries directed to the multiple sources.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to an aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for accessing a plurality of data sources by a single access operation or query. Each data source in the plurality of data sources requires a separate driver to access the data source so that there is a plurality of separate drivers. Each driver in the plurality of separate drivers uses an application programming interface (API). The API is substantially identical for each of the drivers in the plurality of separate drivers.

-1-

COPY

Exhibit B

